

In the Claims

1. (original) A device for mounting seat covers (10) of any type on foam cushion components (12) of a seat, a vehicle seat in particular, having gripping elements (14) which, clustered in actuation groups (16, 18, 20, 22, 24), perform the function of receiving section strips (26, 28, 30, 32, 34) mounted on the seat cover (10) and which pull the section strips (16, 18, 20, 24) by means of a positioning mechanism (42), which permits relative movement between foam cushion component (12) and the respective gripping element (14), into channel-like recesses (44, 46, 48, 50, 52) in the foam cushion component (12) in order thereby to fasten the seat cover (10) on the foam cushion component (12).

2. (original) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the respective gripping element (14) consists of a gripping tong having two tong components (54) movable relative to each other which may be opened and closed by means of a drive, including a drive in the form of a spring mechanism.

3. (currently amended) The device as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein all gripping elements (14) are enclosed in a common frame component (58) of the positioning mechanism (42), the vertical position of which frame component may be changed by linear movement, in particular by means of a linear drive (60).

4. (currently amended) The device as claimed in ~~one of~~ claims 1 ~~to 3~~, wherein the positioning mechanism (42) has a support component (64) for support of the foam cushion component (12), gripping elements (14) extending through such positioning mechanism (42)

when in a lowered position, which positioning mechanism (42) is free of the gripping elements (14) when in a raised position.

5. (original) The device as claimed in claim 4, wherein another linear drive (66), which permits movement superimposed on that of the first linear drive (60), performs the function of placing the support component (64) in individual positions.

6. (currently amended) The device as claimed in ~~one of~~ claims 1 to 5, wherein twelve gripping elements (14) in the aggregate are present of which the two outermost longitudinal rows, each made up of three gripping elements (14), perform the function as respective actuation group (16, 18) of mounting the section strips (26, 28) which are associated with the two longitudinal seams (39) on the respective seat component, and wherein the gripping elements (14) positioned between the seams in pairs define three actuation groups (20, 22, 24), which are associated with the three transverse seams (40) on the respective seat component.

7. (currently amended) The device as claimed in claim 5 ~~or 6~~, wherein each of the two types of linear drives (60, 66) consists of four operating cylinders (64, 68) which, mounted on the external circumference side, in one instance engage the frame component (58) and in the other instance engage the support component (64) of the positioning mechanism (42).

8. (original) The device as claimed in claim 7, wherein the operating cylinders (68) of the positioning mechanism (42) for the support component (64) may be displaced vertically by

the operating cylinders (62), which engage the frame component (58) of the positioning mechanism (42).

9. (currently amended) The device as claimed in ~~one of~~ claims 1 to 8, wherein the respective gripping element (14) is configured as a rod and has on its upper end a head component (72) for mounting of the respective section strip (26, 28, 30, 32, 34) of the seat cover component (10) and on its base component (56) engages a third linear drive, which permits relative movement of the two tong components (54) toward each other.

10. (original) The device as claimed in claim 9, wherein all linear drives (60, 66) may be actuated by pneumatic means.